

HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

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BILL: SB 1162, 1st Eng.
SPONSOR: Senator Sebesta
SUBJECT: Florida Prepaid College Program
PREPARED BY: Senate Committee on Education
DATE: May 3, 2001

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 – 464641 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 adds the following provisions to SB 1162:

- Raises the percent of fee revenue that must be used for need based aid by community colleges and universities.
- Prohibits universities from using any portion of that revenue for administrative purposes. (This prohibition does not conform to the Implementing Bill.)
- Requires school districts to report annually a student's status toward earning a Bright Futures award.
- Restricts the institutions a Gold Seal Scholar may attend, except for programs approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee as related to the high school vocational program.
- Requires Bright Futures recipients who enroll in a public postsecondary education institution to take at least five CLEP examinations at no cost to the student. Passing a test reduces eligibility for Bright Futures by the number of credit hours earned. The Department of Education must negotiate with the College Board regarding the cost, which must not exceed \$46 per test and is to be paid out of lottery dollars. No other vendor may compete for the testing program.
- Authorizes part time students to be eligible for all three of the state funded need base financial aid programs, but creates a priority for full-time students and the Talented Twenty Percent. Establishes an application deadline and requires institutions to report students who do not meet the application deadline. The allocation formula must consider the number of students who met the application deadline. Permits benefits purchased under the Florida Prepaid College Program to be rolled over to a college savings program. (The Implementing Bill authorizes part time awards only for students attending public institutions, not the other two.)
- Places restrictions on state contracts with independent institutions. Total support may not exceed average cost to the state to provide similar programs for SUS students: Support includes FRAG, tuition paid by student, and state funds paid for the contract.